



Newsletter June 2025

St Columba's Presbyterian Church Mutare

Celebrating Pentecost: The Gift of the Spirit

In this season, we celebrate Pentecost. The Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, empowering them to proclaim the Gospel with boldness. As Scripture tells us:

"Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit..."(Acts 2:2-4).

Pentecost marks the birth of the Church and reminds us that the same Spirit lives in us today, guiding and strengthening our faith.

Join us for our Church services this Pentecost season, as we reflect on this powerful event and seek a deeper understanding of the Spirit's work in our lives. Come, be filled anew with God's presence! Invite a friend, a relative and come let us celebrate Pentecost together!

Chris.

Calendar highlights

Sun 1 Jun	9 am	Communion Service - Handfull of Rice - GILLS Bake Sale to fundraise for church (anyone to bring goodies to sell)
Sun 8 Jun		Pentecost Sunday
Sun 15 Jun		Father's Day
Sat 21 Jun		Session Meeting



A Word From The Pastors

Dear friends,

As we celebrate Fathers' Day this June, let us be aware of this – there is something distinctly special about a father's love. Think about this, a mother's love was biologically created to be instinctual in that even her body has to connect with the child through carrying the pregnancy, giving birth, and breastfeeding the baby. Even if she chooses not to breastfeed, her body rebels by causing swelling and pain to her breast. So, in many ways, she is forced by nature to love and connect with the baby.

A father's love is a totally different ball game. The father can choose to accept paternity of the child or not. The father can choose to support the pregnancy or not. The father can choose to be in the child's life or not after it's birth. So, when a father chooses to love the child and BE a father in his actions, this is truly a special love – love that is planned, intentional, and deliberate. This is no forced love or biological love. That is why the love of a father is special.

No wonder the Bible sometimes chooses to refer to God as "Father." When you have been chosen, accepted and loved by the Father God, then you know you have been loved with a special love.

- To those with no earthly father, celebrate the love of Father God upon your life.
- To those who are doing double duty as both father and mother, we acknowledge you.
- To those who play the role of father in other people's lives, we are grateful for you.



- To those fathers who are struggling to support their families because of a difficult economy, we acknowledge you.
- To those fathers who feel like they are not enough, your Father God sees you and loves you with a perfect love.

“As a father has compassion on His children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him” (Psalm 103:13).

With much love from your pastors Paul and Lydia.



Acknowledgements

Pastors Paul and Lydia Neshangwe,
 Pastor Chris Muzodziwa
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 Iris Shiripinda,
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 Wietske Mushonga

all contributed to the production of this newsletter.



Men have you been roughed up to grow up?

Growing up in Christ does not come easy.

How many of us men have been told you need to grow up at some stage in our lives? The same applies to many Christian men. We have to be lovingly roughed up, properly, before we can become serious Christians.

Our heavenly Father sometimes allows his children to experience hard knocks so they'll become mature believers. When we experience tough times, we sometimes feel forsaken and start wondering if God has forgotten us.

I want to use the example of a seed to demonstrate this process. Some have to go through different stages before they start to change. In some instances, bad weather like a storm have to damage the seed before they can germinate.

Some seeds are covered with hard shells to keep out water and sun, so they are able to lie dormant on or in the sand for many seasons until conditions are just right for germination.

Some seeds need those yearly fires across the fields, harsh as it seems thinking that fire would destroy the seed but no. The seed actually needs that intense heat to sweep across the area to allow and stimulate new growth.

When heavy rains finally come the seeds are carried away, banged up against rocks and different obstacles as they rush down the slopes, gullies, rapids and eventually they settle in depressions or cracks in the soil where they remain for their right season and conditions to grow.

So dear men we too may find that as we go through our different walk with Jesus, changes may occur; it may hurt for a while, but if we yield to Jesus we will find that life's bruises can mark the beginning of new spiritual growth and advances.



This process is like a sculpture being carved away. This process is all about removing all the unwanted bits until the piece of art is perfect for Jesus.

It's much easier for us men to prefer to remain as seeds, but Jesus wants more from us. He wants us to bear fruit in his kingdom. Let us encourage men of all ages to become more active in one's own local church.

Step out, the time is now, and watch other people enjoy the fruit of your work in God's Kingdom. Do something for God in your Church. This can be any good deed like helping financially, being in the choir, organizing or taking part in men's meeting, living like a good Christian man or even as a worker. The examples are endless. Read the Bible for guidance!

Something to take away. Always remember that there are no gains without pain.

God bless you.

Colin

Peter 2:2-3

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.



HOPE'S PROMISE

Hope's Promise Orphan Care is a global organization that has been transforming lives through its compassionate and holistic practices and programs. With four Orphan Care branches in Zimbabwe, Nepal, Kenya, and Vietnam, it is committed to supporting orphaned children.

HOPE'S PROMISE ZIMBABWE

At Hope's Promise Orphan Care Zimbabwe, we use a family centered approach to do orphan care because family is the best nurturing environment for children rather than institutionalizing them. We empower relatives and caregivers to provide love, care, and support for the orphans within their extended family system. Hope's Promise pays school fees for these children, from primary school to tertiary level, depending on their academic potential.

Our commitment goes beyond financial assistance, and we form personal relationships with families, offering psychosocial support, counselling, and guidance. We also help caregivers develop sustainable livelihood through business initiatives and projects, enabling them to care for their families more effectively.

THE CONNECTION TEAM VISIT

From Monday 19-26 May 2025 Hope's Promise is hosting a Connection Team from America in Mutare. Their visit is for understanding the context of orphans and vulnerable children in Zimbabwe and to support the work of Hope's Promise Zimbabwe.

Our organization in Zimbabwe is caring for 60 children; half of them in Bulawayo and half in Mutare. Our team is led by two Country Coordinators - Revs Paul and Lydia Neshangwe. Through Hope's Promise Orphan Care efforts, we are not just providing education. We are investing in the future of these children and their communities. We believe every child deserves a chance to succeed within a family context, and we are committed to walking alongside them every step of the way.



Muriel

Muriel is a 90 year old lady. She is the mother of Jenny. Yes, our Jenny from Kids Church and Mother in Law of Mark. She is blessed to have such big children who are walking in the Lord.

We visited Muriel at a Retirement Home, where she lives now. We asked her to tell us about her walk in Christ.

"Just remember, when you get into your eighties (80s), enjoy it because there is nothing you can do about it. For my age, it is the grace of God.

Psalm 27 comforts me. Especially the last 2 verses.

Coming to Christ

I gave my life to Jesus Christ on the 3rd of March in 1960 and have never looked back. It was on one of the evangelical altar calls by Billy Graham. Billy preached that I could know Jesus as a personal friend every day. We were transferred to Malawi to work there together with my husband. It was Nyasaland then.

I have also met with some challenges in my life and even thought of ending it. Big sicknesses!
But I never asked God, "Why me?".

A divine intervention in my life

That time, I was a member of the Anglican Church. Church started learning about the Holy Spirit. We had the first home groups in Mutare. A friend invited me to another pastor for prayers to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

I had expected to start speaking in tongues. The tongues did not come until one day when I was in the bath, started singing and then found myself singing in tongues.



I can tell you that after my baptism,
I got different Holy Spirit gifts from God.

- Power of deliverance
- Healing
- Prophecy
- Teaching others

I used to smoke then. Everyone knows how difficult it is to stop. I suddenly could feel how dirty I was from the smoke. I had tried to stop many times. I knew that smoking would not keep me out of heaven but would destroy my health. God did a miracle then. I prayed and asked God to help me stop.

I felt dirty from the smoke. I threw away cigarettes, everything! I washed my face, my mouth. I never smoked another cigarette. This was 50 years ago.

From right then, I got hunger for God's word. I have been teaching the word since then. I read the Bible everyday and pray a lot. Every moment I open the Bible, I anticipate something new. It is my love and joy.

In my early years in Mutare, we did a lot of work for Christ. For instance, we used to teach new believers how to give their testimonies. How to speak about one thing in their lives before receiving Christ and how that changed after receiving Christ.

We used to have what was called a GoTeams and were invited to go as a team to speak in many places and to farm labourers. I had an interesting experience there. One group came singing and it was not really nice. One man came forward and gripped my arm in a vice like grip. He made a billowing sound like of a mombe (cow) in my face. I suddenly commanded him to stop in Jesus' name. He suddenly stopped and said, "Thank you, madam," with a smile.



Muriel



Another girl came forward again and gripped me again like the man had done. Again, I commanded her to stop in Jesus' name. Again, she stopped and thanked me with a smile. This was the work of the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps the most wonderful experience I had in my walk with the Lord were the years of ministering as a member of the Lay Witness Mission team to various churches in many parts of Zimbabwe.

Muriel's secrets in staying fit.

She has a sound mind, can see and hear properly.
Diet from time to time.
Walking.

Work career

I was working most of my young life. We worked in Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe for many years with my husband. We were government workers. We worked for the Federal government. One time, while working in Malawi, I had a serious encounter with the Holy Spirit. At that time, racial divisions were very serious and terrible. One day, I was just overwhelmed by the love of God. I suddenly felt this immense love for black people. I felt that I really and truly loved them. After leaving Malawi, I felt the same for the black people in Zimbabwe.

Other moments of outreach

In those old days in Mutare, we had a team for outreach. Races did not mix then, but our team had 3 whites and two black people united by the love of God. At one point in our outreach work, we realized that this was bringing a revival to different churches. I can't say that we did it but rather that God did it.

It was a great joy to speak with Muriel. To hear from this elderly woman of God.

We will write more from Muriel in the next newsletter. God bless.....



The Church and Finances

Attention all:

The church is in deficit financially and urgently needs your financial support for it to carry on with its mission and ministry. Do you have a plan to support your local church?

God says to us:

***“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
(2 Corinthians 9:7)***

Why Do I Give to God?

1. It is an act of worship
2. It is an act of obedience
3. It tells God I trust Him
4. It reminds me that I am not my source
5. It connects my money to a Kingdom of God purpose
6. It breaks self-reliance from my heart
7. It lets everything else in life know that God is first

How Do I Give to God?

- Tithe/Planned-giving in an envelope, cash offering in the service on Sunday
- Bank transfer/deposit
- Handful of Food left by the Communion Table on any Sunday.
- Bequests and donations

Give from the heart, not just the wallet.





Fruits of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23



List of Ministeries

MINISTERS:

REVs PAUL AND LYDIA NESHANGWE

Email: paneshangwe@gmail.com, lydianeshangwe@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 0717 654008, 0782 964362

CHURCH OFFICE:

Mon – Fri 8am – 12:30pm

Tel: 02020 60628, 0717 459312

Email: mupresby@gmail.com

SESSION CLERK:

MARIE SACCONI

CARETAKER:

GODFREY MAGODHLO

Tel: 0772844273

CHURCH SECRETARY:

KATIE BOWEN 3

SERVICES:

Sunday Service 9 am

Communion Service and 'Handful of Rice' - 1st Sunday of the month

Kids Church - Sunday 9 am

BIBLE STUDIES:

Ladies Bible Study

Mon 10-11am, Jenny Paterson, Cntct Wietske Mushonga or Jenny

Homegroup men&women

Mon 5.30-6.30pm, Liffy Gorton, Contact Gavin&Sue Young

Bible Study

Tue 2-3pm, Liffy Gorton

Alpha Course

Tue 6pm, Simon & Katie Bowen

Homegroup

Wed 6.30pm, Mark and Jenny Paterson

Homegroup men&women

Wed 6-7pm, Albert Masvongo and Colin Brandt

Ladies Bible Study

Every 2nd Thu, 10-12am, Marie Sacconi

CHURCH MINISTRIES:

- **CALLED 2 CARE (Skills Training Outreach)** Daily, Onie & Wendy Mususa
- **GILLS (Growing In Love Ladies)** *Last Saturday of the Month, 9am – Lys Sheiky*
- **FELLOWSHIP OF WOMEN** Every 2nd Sunday after Church
- **MEN'S MINISTRY** Every Saturday, 7am - Colin Brandt
- **BOYS' & GIRLS' BRIGADES** Every Saturday at the church, 2pm - Fiona Botes
- **YOUTH MINISTRY** Every Saturday, at the church, 2pm - Munya Kamunda and Ashley Mususa
- **MUSIC MINISTRY** Every Friday 4.30 PM Contact Josphat Mususa
- **YOUNG ADULTS** Monthly, cntct Kuda Musanu & Simba Mangore

CHURCH BANKING DETAILS: STANBIC BANK

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FCA 914 000 4484 346

ZB BANK

RTGS 4532 104335 200

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To all our church members if anyone of us has

a car or tractor mechanical issue

*please feel free to look for **Munya** on **0775921314***

For car service or repairs or recovery that is towing

*I would be very happy to assist you all our church
members and looking forward to seeing you
bringing some work*

Greetings, friends.

*The Newsletter Team is appealing to all who would like to advertise
their businesses, practices and trades in the monthly church newsletter.*

*You can take a full page, half page or a quarter page for a small fee.
We want to know about and support your "hustle."*

Contact Wietske or any member of the Newsletter Team.





